

Historic, Archive Document

Do not assume content reflects current scientific knowledge, policies, or practices.



Issued in the interest of corn-borer control conducted by the United States Department of Agriculture in cooperation with the State departments of agriculture and State agricultural colleges in New York, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Michigan, and Indiana.

No. 14

Washington, D. C.

July 9, 1927

WELL DONE BUT ALSO JUST BEGUN

Now that the emergence of the European corn-borer moths has brought temporary cessation of active control measures, we may take time to glance backward over our campaign and consider what we have accomplished. The destruction of more than 95 per cent of the borers in the campaign area, which is the final estimate made, I am of the opinion establishes a new record in combating an insect pest. This was done, too, in spite of the handicaps of an extremely wet season and the short time in which to do the necessary work after the campaign was fully authorized.

Only the fullest cooperation of every one having a part in the effort could have accomplished such a feat. The department appreciates this carrying out of the spirit of the law by the State departments of agriculture, the State agricultural colleges, and other cooperating agencies in the five States concerned. The farmers of the clean-up area, with very few exceptions, gave the campaign strong support, and I feel sure all will agree it is not too much to say that they were the determining factor in the results.

All who have participated in the clean-up have learned some valuable lessons in corn-borer control, and I trust we shall not neglect to apply our well-earned knowledge to the end that eventually the European corn borer may cease to be a serious hazard to the corn crop.

A. F. Woods

Director of Scientific Work

A press release has been issued by the department announcing the close of the spring campaign against the European corn borer and briefly outlining the procedure which was followed from March 14 to July 2. It is given in full below.

July 1, 1927

CORN-BORER CAMPAIGN DESTROYED
95 PER CENT OF PEST, SAYS
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Destruction of more than 95 per cent of the European corn borers is estimated as the result of the four months' intensive spring campaign in defense of the Nation's corn crop which ends tomorrow, July 2, according to reports to the United States Department of Agriculture. General emergence of the moths of the borers renders further clean-up of corn refuse useless for this season.

This campaign, conducted by the department in cooperation with the State agricultural colleges, the State departments of agriculture, and more than 300,000 farmers of New York, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Michigan, and Indiana, is one of the most intensive ever waged against an insect pest in the United States. An area of more than 2,000,000 acres was involved. Slowing up of the spread of the borer and marked reduction of damage from the pest should naturally follow this successful campaign, says the department. The final result, however, will be determined this fall when records of the spread and infestation of this year's corn crop can be completed.

The campaign was begun March 14 under authority of an act of Congress appropriating \$10,000,000 for the control of the European corn borer, after the necessary legislation had been enacted by the States concerned. From that time every effort has been made to acquaint farmers in the area with the measures necessary for a satisfactory voluntary clean-up. These measures include the burning or plowing under completely of cornstalks, stubble, cobs, and trash left in the field, and the removal and burning of all cornstalks, cobs, and trash in barnyards, feed lots, stacks, or elsewhere that had not been shredded or made into silage.

Reports received by the department indicate a very high percentage of voluntary cooperation in carrying out control measures by the farmers in the campaign area. This record on the part of the farmers in cooperating with the State and Federal agencies in the clean-up is the more noteworthy in view of the adverse weather conditions under which the work was done and the short time which remained after complete authorization of the campaign was made.

With the Corn Borer

The act provided for compensation to farmers for such work as was performed in controlling the borer which was in addition to that normal and usual in their farm operations. The maximum amount allowed for such work was \$2 per acre of cornland. Under this provision of the act it is estimated that farmers in the campaign area who have made a voluntary clean-up will receive between \$4,000,000 and \$5,000,000. Only the fullest cooperation with the department of all forces concerned has made possible the unprecedented record of the 95 per cent destruction of this pest which threatens the corn crop of the entire Corn Belt.

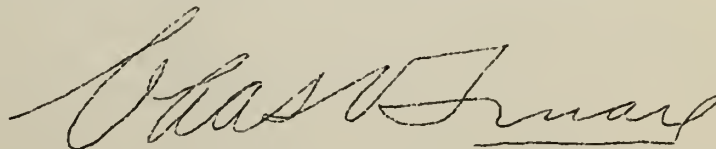
#

TRUAX REVIEWS WORK IN OHIO

Observations in northern Ohio, particularly between Painesville and Toledo, show a notable change over the previous years since the European corn borer first became an important menace to agricultural prosperity. A remarkable improvement can be witnessed in cornfields adjacent to the main highways and railways that traverse the portion of the State under quarantine. Early in June an extensive inspection was made of this district, and very few fields could be seen in bad condition where previously at this season there have always been a large number showing standing stalks and high stubble. It can be said authentically that practically every field in this district shows a certain amount of labor expended in combating the corn borer.

Work accomplished by those engaged in the recent intensive clean-up campaign can not be measured in dollars and cents. Moreover its very thoroughness is indicative of the intense personal interest the workers have had in protecting agriculture. Field conditions are ample evidence of the fact that those who labored so diligently in clean-up work did so not for the monetary award alone but because of their whole-hearted sympathy for agriculturists faced by the menace of this dangerous pest.

I, personally, consider the situation in Ohio as far more encouraging as regards the European corn borer than it has been in the past. The recent campaign has proved that Federal officials and State officials cooperating on a large scale can hold this great menace in check to a certain degree and can clean up heavily infested areas until they contain a minimum of danger to districts more fortunate in borer population.



Director, Ohio Department of Agriculture

FROM A
MICHIGAN

PRESS RELEASE

"If everybody in Michigan complied with the rules and regulations of the State department of agriculture as farmers have with corn-borer control measures," declared Herbert E. Powell, commissioner of agriculture, today, "the work of the department would be reduced to a minimum. It shows that farmers are inherently a law-abiding class."

Despite the fact that over 70,000 farmers were subject to corn-borer clean-up measures, only two suits were instituted to restrain the State department of agriculture from carrying out the provisions of the State corn-borer act.

The disposal of corn refuse on approximately 800,000 acres of land in 23 counties was the task which confronted farmers in the borer area at the beginning of the campaign. The fact that only two objections were raised against complying with the regulations is believed by department of agriculture officials to be without parallel in the administration of public acts.

Michigan farmers are wide-awake to the seriousness of the corn-borer situation, Powell points out. Although the Federal Government generously made provision to reimburse them for their extra labor in combating the pest, the main concern of the farmers was to control the borer, and not the financial reward.

It is the opinion of the agricultural officials that the clean-up measures practiced by farmers this spring will be an important factor in reducing the economic damage wrought by the corn borer.

Michigan State College of Agriculture
and Applied Science.

IN PENNSYLVANIA a very good job was done, according to reports, even though some of the counties had t-w-e-n-t-y---t-w-o days of rain during the clean-up period. People throughout the area are reported well satisfied with the results.

KEEP AN EYE PEELED says an Indiana newspaper, "The Noble Farmer," published at Kendallville. "There are those who honestly believe there is no corn borer, because they have never come face to face with one," the paper says, adding that they will be interested in knowing some signs that will help them locate the pest if any are in their fields. Description of telltale signs well known to corn-borer sleuths then follow..



A program of old-time Indian dances in feather was featured at the recent annual field day of the Six Nations Indian farmers in Letchworth State Park, says a press release from New York State College of Agriculture. A new dance, called "Death to the Corn Borer," was given for the first time. The Indian farmers, continues the release, have conducted a corn-borer campaign with great enthusiasm and success, and the dance celebrated the conquest of the European pest which tried to destroy their corn, the great gift of the Great Spirit.



Note: With the conclusion of the spring campaign, the weekly publication of "With the Corn Borer" is discontinued. It is probable that from time to time during the progress of the scouting work in the infested area reports of results obtained will be distributed through special issues of "With the Corn Borer."



